Zones (FTWZs) giving a major thrust to procedural simplification to reduce transaction costs of exporters and engaging in greater economic cooperation with other countries through regional trade agreements.

**Agreement between India and Belarus to double trade**

3046. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact India and Belarus have entered into an agreement to double their trade;

(b) if so, the details of the tie-ups between the two countries to achieve the objective; and

(c) what is the present status of trade between the two countries and which are the main items of trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The present status of India-Belarus trade is as under:-

(In rupees crores)

| Year | Exports | Imports | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005* | 45.07 | 53.41 | 98.48 |
| 2004-2005 (April-August) | 15.86 | 22.80 | 38.66 |
| 2005-2006* (April-August) | 18.80 | 65.20 | 84.00 |

*(Provisional)
Source: DGCI&S

The main items of export from India to Belarus are drugs, pharmaceuticals & fine chemicals, machinery and instruments, tobacco unmanufactured, electronic goods, tea etc.

The main items of import from Belarus to India are synthetic & regenerated fibres, iron and steel, inorganic chemicals etc.